

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The question has been considered by the Director of Public Instruction and it is now under the consideration of Government.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I take it that the investigation has been undertaken?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know how long it will take for the investigation to be closed?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is difficult to answer that.

Abolition of the Additional Benches of the District Courts at Quilon and Alleppey and Establishment of a Sessions Court at Mavelikara.

258. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to abolish the additional Benches of the District Courts at Quilon and Alleppey and to establish a District and Sessions Court at Mavelikara in their stead, in view of the fact that the people of the taluks of Mavelikara, Kartikapalli, Pattanamtitta, Tiruvalla, Kunnattur and the northern parts of Karunagapalli will be greatly benefited thereby?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Having regard to the heavy arrears in the District Courts at Alleppey and Quilon, it is not possible to abolish the Second Judges' Courts at these stations. The Government consider that it is not also desirable to establish a District Court at Mavelikara which is only 32 miles distant from Quilon where there is a District Court.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): It is stated in the answer that there are heavy arrears in the District Courts of Alleppey and Quilon. May I know whether much of these arrears might not be sent to the court if one is established at Mavelikara?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): That might be possible.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): It is also stated in the answer that it is not desirable to establish a District Court at Mavelikara which is only 32 miles from Quilon. Is not the distance between Kottayam and Alleppey less than 32 miles?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): This question does not arise out of the main question.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your question, Mr. Ramon Menon, was about the opening of a District Court at Mavelikara; and the answer is that it is not desirable to open a new court there since it is only 32 miles from Quilon where there is a District Court. The distance between Kottayam and Alleppey does not, therefore, arise out of your question.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to consider whether it will not be beneficial,

financially and otherwise, to the people, to have courts at different localities than to have more than one court in the same place?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): That is a big question which cannot be considered now. It is also a new question.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): The answer is that it is not desirable to establish a District Court at Mavelikara since it is only 32 miles from Quilon. The implication in the answer leads me to this supplementary question.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It may be so. You may put a new question about it later on.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I think it arises since it is relevant to the other question.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You want the Government to answer the general question as to whether it is not desirable to open courts in different places instead of having more than one court in the same locality. I do not think that this question arises from your question.

Manufacture of Coconut Palm Jaggery.

259. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): (a) Are the Government aware that the people of Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli, Mavelikara and other coconut-producing taluks are put to very great loss owing to the embargo placed by the Excise Department on the tapping of coconut trees for sweet toddy for the manufacture of jaggery?

(b) Are the Government aware that the people of these taluks are being disastrously impoverished owing to the spread of serious coconut tree diseases?

(c) Are the Government aware that coconut jaggery is a very health-giving and valuable food product and that the practical discontinuance of the manufacture of this food product brought about by the Excise policy of the Government has disastrously affected the health and finances of the people of these taluks?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to encourage the manufacture of coconut jaggery in these taluks by removing the embargo and granting free licenses for tapping coconut trees for the manufacture of jaggery, in consideration of the fact that a tree tax is already being levied on coconut trees?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (a) The Excise Department does not place any embargo on the tapping of coconut trees for sweet toddy for the manufacture of jaggery. All *bona fide* applicants are granted licenses for drawing sweet toddy.

(b) The Government will enquire.

(c) The manufacture of jaggery from coconut toddy did not exist to any appreciable extent; and if what existed has now been discontinued, it may be due to the failure of the industry from an economic point of view.